

General Nielsen replaces Paul as AFRL commander

by Timothy Anderl, AFRL Headquarters

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO —

Major General Richard R. Paul, who has served as the commander of the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) since its inception in October 1997, retired at a formal ceremony April 14 at 9:00 a.m. at the United States Air Force Museum. During the ceremony, General Paul Nielsen assumed commander duties for the locally based AFRL.

Paul entered the Air Force in 1967 as a distinguished graduate of Officer Training School, Lackland AFB, Texas. He has served in two Air Force laboratories, a product center, two major command headquarters, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. and a joint staff assignment. Prior to his current assignment, he served as commander of Wright Laboratory, the largest aerospace laboratory complex in the Air Force prior to formation of AFRL.

Nielsen comes to AFRL from an assignment as vice commander of Aeronautical Systems Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

He has served as a command director of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) Combat Operations Staff at the Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, Colorado Springs, Colo. He was also named chief of Operations for the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center in October 1996 and in May 1997, served as director of Plans, Headquarters North American Aerospace Defense Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

Nielsen is a native of New Orleans, La., and a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy with bachelor of science degrees in physics and mathematics. He earned a master of science degree in applied physics at the Livermore



WELCOMING THE NEW COMMANDER — Brigadier General Paul D. Nielsen (middle) receives a flag from Gen. George Babbitt (right) during the AFRL change of command ceremony recently. Nielsen became commander of the laboratory upon Maj. Gen. Richard Paul's retirement.

campus of the University of California, Davis, as a Hertz Foundation fellow. He returned to Livermore, again as a Hertz Foundation fellow, and was awarded his doctorate in plasma physics from the University of California, Davis, in 1981. He also holds a master's of business administration degree from the University of New Mexico and is a graduate of National War College.

As AFRL commander, General Nielsen will direct the Air Force's annual \$2.4 billion science and technology program which is executed by more than 5,700 people in the laboratory's component technology directorates and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research. The Air Force Research Laboratory plans, manages and conducts research and development activities for the Air Force to advance the entire range of aerospace and interrelated technologies. @